



Health Department

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City Departments Collaborate for Combined Attack on Mosquitoes and West-Nile Virus

To knock out mosquito population before disease spreads, health department crews are joined by Housing Authority personnel and sanitation workers to place larvicide packets in storm drains while making garbage-collection rounds

City Departments including the Department of Public Works and Housing Authority for the City of Milwaukee in coordination with the Milwaukee Health Department will continue this week with the second seasonal application of mosquito larvicide in select locations for purposes of reducing mosquito breeding and potential spread of West Nile Virus (WNV). The placement of the larvicide VectoLex™ will occur in approximately 24,000 catch basins throughout Milwaukee County over the next two weeks. Employees from all three City Departments (DPW, Health and HACM) will participate this year in the three applications of the larvicide during the mosquito breeding season which typically extends from early May through October.

“Teamwork is a cost-effective solution. It allows us to achieve our top goal of protecting people in Milwaukee from a serious disease – and saves taxpayers money,” said Mayor John O. Norquist. “Tight budget constraints demand innovative approaches in the assurance of health and safety of our community. Using staff from departments already deployed in the field, such as sanitation for the rapid placement of the larvicide only makes good sense from both a budget and logistics standpoint,” he said.

Larvicide is also being placed in other areas of Milwaukee County in coordination with other municipal local health departments. The third and final application of larvicide in the City for this season will begin late August. This is the second year that the MHD has coordinated targeted larvicide application in the City for purposes of reducing WNV transmission and potential for outbreak. Further information on WNV including City surveillance efforts can be found at www.milwaukee.gov/health or by calling the MHD at 414-286-3606.

WHEN: July 18, 2003
WHERE: Corner of N. Maryland and E. Locust Avenues
TIME: 11:00 a.m.
WHO: Mayor John O. Norquist
Paul Biedrzycki, Disease Control and Prevention Manager
Michael Engelbart, Department of Public Works